

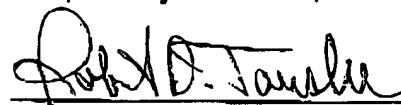
REMARKS

Claims 1-13 remain in the application. Claims 14 – 19 have been cancelled as being withdrawn claims, but this does not indicate that applicant has ceased efforts to seek patent protection for the invention of those withdrawn claims. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the mat is a nonwoven fibrous mat and that the hot strength is for the mat although the binder holding the fibers together is critical to the hot strength as those of ordinary skill in the art are well aware. Basis for the amendment is found at page 4, lines 18-23, the last sentences of each of Examples 2 and 3, the Table on page 7 and page 8, lines 6-22.

Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant believes the amendments described above respond to the reasons for this rejection and that claims 1-13 are now patentable under 35 USC 112. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw this rejection and to allow these claims.

Applicants believe that the claims are now in condition for allowance and look forward to receiving a notice of allowance, but if the Examiner believes one or more issues still exist, to expedite disposal of this application the Examiner is respectfully invited to call Applicants' attorney at the number listed below to discuss the issue or issues and a way of removing.

Respectfully submitted,



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